

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII COFFEE GROWERS TO FORM AN ALLIANCE AND INITIATE A
VOLUNTARY COFFEE BEAN INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION PILOT
PROGRAM TO HELP ENSURE THE GRADE AND ORIGIN OF GREEN COFFEE
BEANS AND PREVENT FALSE CLAIMS OF HAWAII-GROWN COFFEE.

1 WHEREAS, some companies falsely claim that one hundred
2 percent of their coffee beans are grown in Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, although inspections can help ensure the grade and
5 origin of green coffee beans, mandatory inspections can be cost-
6 prohibitive for small farmers; and
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8 WHEREAS, in 2010, the State of California initiated a
9 successful, third-party, statewide voluntary vineyards and
10 wineries inspection certification program called the Certified
11 California Sustainable Winegrowing program; and
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13 WHEREAS, the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance
14 conducts annual audits and ranks vineyards and wineries based on
15 a point system that evaluates the winegrower's use of water,
16 greenhouse gas emissions, and other sustainability factors; and
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18 WHEREAS, winegrowers can show customers their progress each
19 year through the sustainability rankings and certification; and
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21 WHEREAS, a pilot program, similar to the Certified
22 California Sustainable Winegrowing program, may be initiated in
23 Hawaii to certify green coffee beans for quality and origin; and
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25 WHEREAS, voluntary certification can help ensure the
26 quality of Hawaii-grown coffee and prevent false claims related
27 to coffee origin and grade; and
28

29 WHEREAS, voluntary third-party inspections have the
30 potential to be more cost-effective; and
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32 WHEREAS, forming a coffee growers' alliance, similar to
33 that in California, can foster collaboration between and unity
34 among small- and large-scale coffee farmers; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
3 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that Hawaii
4 coffee growers are requested to form an alliance and initiate a
5 voluntary green coffee bean inspection and certification pilot
6 program to help ensure the grade and origin of green coffee
7 beans and prevent false claims of Hawaii-grown coffee; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the alliance and inspection and
10 certification pilot program be modeled on the California
11 Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance and the Certified California
12 Sustainable Winegrowing program, respectively; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Coffee Association
15 is requested to reach out to all known Hawaii coffee growers to
16 invite them to participate in the alliance and pilot program;
17 and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the alliance is urged to foster
20 collaboration and give an equal voice to small- and large-scale
21 coffee farmers; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the alliance is requested to
24 inspect and certify Hawaii-grown green coffee beans on a
25 voluntary basis; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the alliance is requested to
28 report to the Legislature on its progress in initiating the
29 pilot program progress no later than twenty days prior to the
30 convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
3 Board of Agriculture; Hawaii Coffee Association; and Kona Coffee
4 Farmers Association.
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OFFERED BY:



